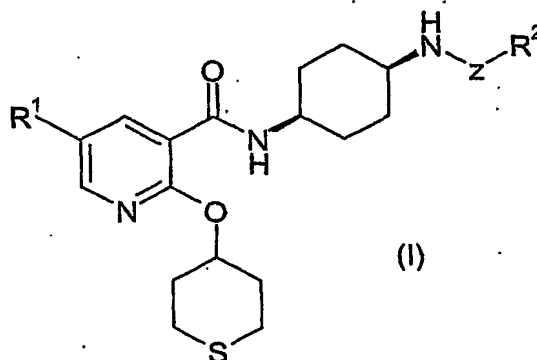


**CLAIMS**

1. A compound of formula (I) :



wherein :

R<sup>1</sup> is selected from H, halo and (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;

Z is a linker group selected from CO and SO<sub>2</sub>;

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from phenyl, benzyl, naphthyl, heteroaryl and (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)cycloalkyl, each of which being substituted with 1 substituent selected from (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, ((C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)cycloalkyl)-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, hydroxy(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, ((C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)cycloalkyl)oxy and phenyl substituted by (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy (said phenyl being additionally optionally substituted by OH and/or halo),

and each of which being additionally optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each independently selected from halo, CN, CONR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, halo(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, OH, hydroxy(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, ((C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)cycloalkyl)-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)cycloalkyl and NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>; and

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are each independently selected from H, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, and SO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof.

2. A compound, salt or solvate according to claim 1 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is H, halo, CH<sub>3</sub> or C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>.

3. A compound, salt or solvate according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein R<sup>2</sup> is phenyl, imidazole, pyrazine, indazole, purine, quinoline, quinazoline, benzofuran, dihydrobenzofuran, benzothiadiazole, benzoxadiazole, pyrazole, imidazopyridine, benzimidazole, pyrazolopyridine, pyrazolopyrimidine, benzyl or cyclopropyl,

each of which being substituted with 1 substituent selected from (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, ((C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)cycloalkyl)-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, hydroxy(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)alkoxy, ((C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)cycloalkyl)oxy and phenyl substituted by (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy (said phenyl being additionally optionally substituted by OH and/or halo),

and each of which being additionally optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each independently selected from halo, CN, CONR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, halo(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, OH, hydroxy(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, ((C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)cycloalkyl)-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)cycloalkyl and NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>.

4. A compound, salt or solvate according to claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is H, F, Cl or CH<sub>3</sub>.

5. A compound, salt or solvate according to any one of claims 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein R<sup>2</sup> is phenyl, imidazole, indazole, quinoline, quinazoline, dihydrobenzofuran, benzothiadiazole, benzoxadiazole, pyrazole, imidazopyridine, benzimidazole, pyrazolopyridine, benzyl or cyclopropyl,

each of which being substituted with 1 substituent selected from OCH<sub>3</sub>, OC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>OH, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>OH, OC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, cyclopropylmethoxy or cyclopentyloxy, and

each of which being additionally optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituents selected from CH<sub>3</sub>, N(CH<sub>3</sub>)SO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, OH, CH<sub>2</sub>OH, Cl, F, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>OH, CF<sub>3</sub>.

6. A compound, salt or solvate according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is F.

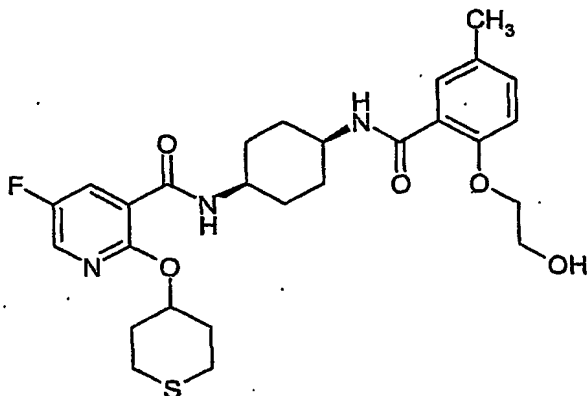
7. A compound, salt or solvate according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein Z is CO.

8. A compound, salt or solvate according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein R<sup>2</sup> is as defined in the Examples.

9. A compound, salt or solvate according to any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein R<sup>2</sup> is as defined in the Example 5.

10. A compound according to claim 1 selected from any one of the Examples, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

11. *Syn*-5-Fluoro-N-{5-[2-(2-hydroxy-ethoxy)-4-methyl-benzoylamino]-cyclohexyl}-2-(tetrahydro-thiopyran-4-yloxy)-nicotinamide of formula :



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

13. A compound salt or solvate according to any one of claims 1 to 11 or pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12, for use in medicine.

14. A compound, salt or solvate according to any one of claims 1 to 11 or a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12, for use in the treatment of a disease, disorder or condition in which PDE4 inhibition is beneficial.

15. A compound according to claim 14, wherein the disease, disorder or condition is selected from

- asthma of whatever type, etiology, or pathogenesis, in particular asthma that is a member selected from the group consisting of atopic asthma, non-atopic asthma, allergic asthma, atopic bronchial IgE-mediated asthma, bronchial asthma, essential asthma, true asthma, intrinsic asthma caused by pathophysiologic disturbances, extrinsic asthma caused by environmental factors, essential asthma of unknown or inapparent cause, non-atopic asthma, bronchitic asthma, emphysematous asthma, exercise-induced asthma,

allergen induced asthma, cold air induced asthma, occupational asthma, infective asthma caused by bacterial, fungal, protozoal, or viral infection, non-allergic asthma, incipient asthma and wheezy infant syndrome,

- chronic or acute bronchoconstriction, chronic bronchitis, small airways obstruction, and emphysema,
- obstructive or inflammatory airways diseases of whatever type, etiology, or pathogenesis, in particular an obstructive or inflammatory airways disease that is a member selected from the group consisting of chronic eosinophilic pneumonia, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), COPD that includes chronic bronchitis, pulmonary emphysema or dyspnea associated therewith, COPD that is characterized by irreversible, progressive airways obstruction, adult respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and exacerbation of airways hyper-reactivity consequent to other drug therapy
- pneumoconiosis of whatever type, etiology, or pathogenesis, in particular pneumoconiosis that is a member selected from the group consisting of aluminosis or bauxite workers' disease, anthracosis or miners' asthma, asbestosis or steam-fitters' asthma, chalicosis or flint disease, ptilosis caused by inhaling the dust from ostrich feathers, siderosis caused by the inhalation of iron particles, silicosis or grinders' disease, byssinosis or cotton-dust asthma and talc pneumoconiosis;
- bronchitis of whatever type, etiology, or pathogenesis, in particular bronchitis that is a member selected from the group consisting of acute bronchitis, acute laryngotracheal bronchitis, arachidic bronchitis, catarrhal bronchitis, croupus bronchitis, dry bronchitis, infectious asthmatic bronchitis, productive bronchitis, staphylococcus or streptococcal bronchitis and vesicular bronchitis,
- bronchiectasis of whatever type, etiology, or pathogenesis, in particular bronchiectasis that is a member selected from the group consisting of cylindric bronchiectasis, sacculated bronchiectasis, fusiform bronchiectasis, capillary bronchiectasis, cystic bronchiectasis, dry bronchiectasis and follicular bronchiectasis,
- seasonal allergic rhinitis or perennial allergic rhinitis or sinusitis of whatever type, etiology, or pathogenesis, in particular sinusitis that is a member selected from the group consisting of purulent or nonpurulent sinusitis, acute or chronic sinusitis and ethmoid, frontal, maxillary, or sphenoid sinusitis,

- rheumatoid arthritis of whatever type, etiology, or pathogenesis, in particular rheumatoid arthritis that is a member selected from the group consisting of acute arthritis, acute gouty arthritis, chronic inflammatory arthritis, degenerative arthritis, infectious arthritis, Lyme arthritis, proliferative arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and vertebral arthritis,
- gout, and fever and pain associated with inflammation,
- an eosinophil-related disorder of whatever type, etiology, or pathogenesis, in particular an eosinophil-related disorder that is a member selected from the group consisting of eosinophilia, pulmonary infiltration eosinophilia, Löffler's syndrome, chronic eosinophilic pneumonia, tropical pulmonary eosinophilia, bronchopneumonic aspergillosis, aspergilloma, granulomas containing eosinophils, allergic granulomatous angiitis or Churg-Strauss syndrome, polyarteritis nodosa (PAN) and systemic necrotizing vasculitis,
- atopic dermatitis, allergic dermatitis, contact dermatitis, or allergic or atopic eczema,
- urticaria of whatever type, etiology, or pathogenesis, in particular urticaria that is a member selected from the group consisting of immune-mediated urticaria, complement-mediated urticaria, urticariogenic material-induced urticaria, physical agent-induced urticaria, stress-induced urticaria, idiopathic urticaria, acute urticaria, chronic urticaria, angioedema, cholinergic urticaria, cold urticaria in the autosomal dominant form or in the acquired form, contact urticaria, giant urticaria and papular urticaria,
- conjunctivitis of whatever type, etiology, or pathogenesis, in particular conjunctivitis that is a member selected from the group consisting of actinic conjunctivitis, acute catarrhal conjunctivitis, acute contagious conjunctivitis, allergic conjunctivitis, atopic conjunctivitis, chronic catarrhal conjunctivitis, purulent conjunctivitis and vernal conjunctivitis,
- uveitis of whatever type, etiology, or pathogenesis, in particular uveitis that is a member selected from the group consisting of inflammation of all or part of the uvea, anterior uveitis, iritis, cyclitis, iridocyclitis, granulomatous uveitis, nongranulomatous uveitis, phacoantigenic uveitis, posterior uveitis, choroiditis; and chorioretinitis,
- multiple sclerosis of whatever type, etiology, or pathogenesis, in particular multiple sclerosis that is a member selected from the group consisting of

primary progressive multiple sclerosis and relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis,

- autoimmune/inflammatory diseases of whatever type, etiology, or pathogenesis, in particular an autoimmune/inflammatory disease that is a member selected from the group consisting of autoimmune hematological disorders, hemolytic anemia, aplastic anemia, pure red cell anemia, idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, systemic lupus erythematosus, polychondritis, scleroderma, Wegner's granulomatosis, dermatomyositis, chronic active hepatitis, myasthenia gravis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, idiopathic sprue, autoimmune inflammatory bowel diseases, ulcerative colitis, endocrinopathies, Grave's disease, sarcoidosis, alveolitis, chronic hypersensitivity pneumonitis, primary biliary cirrhosis, juvenile diabetes or diabetes mellitus type I, keratoconjunctivitis sicca, epidemic keratoconjunctivitis, diffuse interstitial pulmonary fibrosis or interstitial lung fibrosis, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, cystic fibrosis, glomerulonephritis with and without nephrotic syndrome, acute glomerulonephritis, idiopathic nephrotic syndrome, minimal change nephropathy, inflammatory/hyperproliferative skin diseases, benign familial pemphigus, pemphigus erythematosus, pemphigus foliaceus, and pemphigus vulgaris,
- allogeneic graft rejection following organ transplantation,
- inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) of whatever type, etiology, or pathogenesis, in particular inflammatory bowel disease that is a member selected from the group consisting of collagenous colitis, colitis polyposa, transmural colitis, ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease (CD),
- septic shock of whatever type, etiology, or pathogenesis, in particular septic shock that is a member selected from the group consisting of renal failure, acute renal failure, cachexia, malarial cachexia, hypophyseal cachexia, uremic cachexia, cardiac cachexia, cachexia suprarenalis or Addison's disease, cancerous cachexia and cachexia as a consequence of infection by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV),
- liver injury,
- pulmonary hypertension of whatever type, etiology or pathogenesis including primary pulmonary hypertension / essential hypertension, pulmonary hypertension secondary to congestive heart failure, pulmonary hypertension

secondary to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pulmonary venous hypertension, pulmonary arterial hypertension and hypoxia-induced pulmonary hypertension,

- bone loss diseases, primary osteoporosis and secondary osteoporosis,
- central nervous system disorders of whatever type, etiology, or pathogenesis, in particular a central nervous system disorder that is a member selected from the group consisting of depression, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, learning and memory impairment, tardive dyskinesia, drug dependence, arteriosclerotic dementia and dementias that accompany Huntington's chorea, Wilson's disease, paralysis agitans, and thalamic atrophies,
- infection, especially infection by viruses wherein such viruses increase the production of TNF- $\alpha$  in their host, or wherein such viruses are sensitive to upregulation of TNF- $\alpha$  in their host so that their replication or other vital activities are adversely impacted, including a virus which is a member selected from the group consisting of HIV-1, HIV-2, and HIV-3, cytomegalovirus (CMV), influenza, adenoviruses and Herpes viruses including *Herpes zoster* and *Herpes simplex*,
- yeast and fungus infections wherein said yeast and fungi are sensitive to upregulation by TNF- $\alpha$  or elicit TNF- $\alpha$  production in their host, e.g., fungal meningitis, particularly when administered in conjunction with other drugs of choice for the treatment of systemic yeast and fungus infections, including but are not limited to, polymyxins, e.g. Polymyxin B, imidazoles, e.g. clotrimazole, econazole, miconazole, and ketoconazole, triazoles, e.g. fluconazole and itraconazole as well as amphotericins, e.g. Amphotericin B and liposomal Amphotericin B,
- ischemia-reperfusion injury, ischemic heart disease, autoimmune diabetes, retinal autoimmunity, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, HIV infections, lupus erythematosus, kidney and ureter disease, urogenital and gastrointestinal disorders and prostate diseases,
- scar formation in the human or animal body, such as scar formation in the healing of acute wounds, and
- psoriasis, other dermatological and cosmetic uses, including antiphlogistic, skin-softening, skin elasticity and moisture-increasing activities.

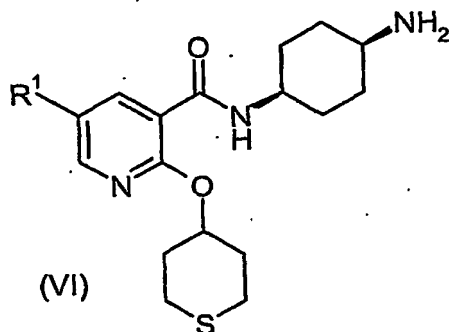
16. The use of a compound salt or solvate according to any one of claims 1 to 11 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a disease, disorder, or condition in which PDE4 inhibition is beneficial.

17. The use according to claim 16 wherein the disease, disorder or condition is selected from the list as defined in claim 15.

18. A method of treatment of a disease, disorder or condition in which PDE4 inhibition is beneficial, of a mammal, including a human being, with an effective amount of a compound, salt or solvate according to any one of claims 1 to 11 or pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12.

19. A method according to claim 18, wherein the disease, disorder or condition is selected from the list as defined in claim 15.

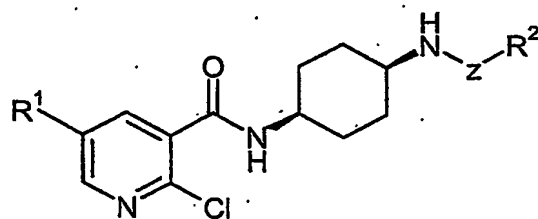
20. A process to make a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, comprising reaction of a compound of formula (VI) with a reagent of formula  $Y-Z-R^2$ ,



wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $Z$  are as defined in claim 1, and  $Y$  is a leaving group.

21. A process to make a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, comprising reaction of a compound of formula (IX)

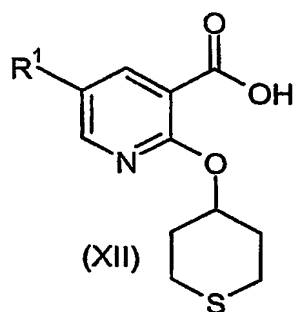




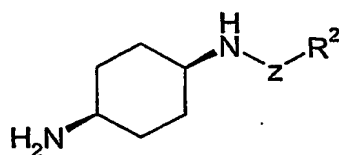
(IX)

with tetrahydrothiopyran-4-ol.

22. A process to make a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, comprising reaction of a compound of formula (XII) with a compound of formula (VIII) :

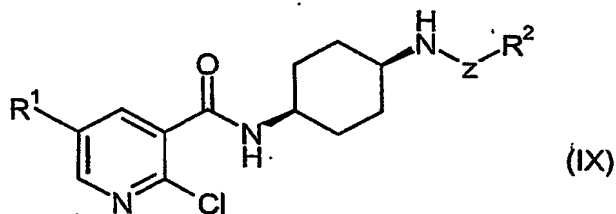


(XII)



(VIII)

23. A compound of formula (IX) :



(IX)

wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> and Z are as defined in claim 1.

24. A combination of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11 with other therapeutic agents selected from :

- (a) 5-Lipoxygenase (5-LO) inhibitors or 5-lipoxygenase activating protein (FLAP) antagonists,
- (b) Leukotriene antagonists (LTRAs) including antagonists of LTB<sub>4</sub>, LTC<sub>4</sub>, LTD<sub>4</sub>, and LTE<sub>4</sub>,
- (c) Histaminic receptor antagonists including H<sub>1</sub>, H<sub>3</sub> and H<sub>4</sub> antagonists,

- (d)  $\alpha$ 1- and  $\alpha$ 2-adrenoceptor agonist vasoconstrictor sympathomimetic agents for decongestant use,
- (e) Muscarinic M3 receptor antagonists or anticholinergic agents,
- (f)  $\beta$ 2-adrenoceptor agonists,
- (g) Theophylline,
- (h) Sodium cromoglycate,
- (i) COX-1 inhibitors (NSAIDs) and COX-2 selective inhibitors,
- (j) Oral or inhaled Glucocorticosteroids,
- (k) Monoclonal antibodies active against endogenous inflammatory entities,
- (l) Anti-tumor necrosis factor (anti-TNF- $\alpha$ ) agents,
- (m) Adhesion molecule inhibitors including VLA-4 antagonists,
- (n) Kinin-B1 - and B2 -receptor antagonists,
- (o) Immunosuppressive agents,
- (p) Inhibitors of matrix metalloproteases (MMPs),
- (q) Tachykinin NK1, NK2 and NK3 receptor antagonists,
- (r) Elastase inhibitors,
- (s) Adenosine A2a receptor agonists,
- (t) Inhibitors of urokinase,
- (u) Compounds that act on dopamine receptors, e.g. D2 agonists,
- (v) Modulators of the NF $\kappa$ b pathway, e.g. IKK inhibitors,
- (w) Agents that can be classed as mucolytics or anti-tussive,
- (x) antibiotics, and
- (y) p38 MAP kinase inhibitors.